

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. In a wireless telecommunication system, a method of transmitting signaling messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising the steps of:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;
assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;
communicating between pairs of entities, using the assigned extended protocol;

and

in response to receipt of a message outside the Standard comprising data in an extension portion of said protocol, determining the source of the message, and interpreting the message in accordance with the extended extension portion of said protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity;

wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extension portions of said protocol.

CLAIM 2 (canceled)

CLAIM 3 (currently amended):

3. The method of Claim 2 1, wherein said at least one entity can translate between compatible messages in a first extended extension portion of said protocol and a second extended extension portion of said protocol.

CLAIM 4 (currently amended):

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein an extended extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one extended extension portion of said protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

CLAIM 5 (currently amended):

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said assigned extended extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one parameter identifier not included in said standard protocol portion.

CLAIM 6 (currently amended):

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said extended extension portion of said protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard protoeol portion.

CLAIM 7 (currently amended):

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different extended extension portion of said protocol between the communicating entities.

CLAIM 8 (original):

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.

CLAIM 9 (currently amended):

9. In a wireless telecommunication system, apparatus for transmitting signaling messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising processor means for controlling execution of the following steps:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;
assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;
communicating between pairs of entities, using the extended protocol; and
in response to receipt of a message outside the Standard comprising data in an
extension portion of said protocol, determining the source of the message, and
interpreting the message in accordance with the extended extension portion of said
protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity;

wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extension
portions of said protocol.

CLAIM 10 (canceled)

CLAIM 11 (currently amended):

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 9, wherein said at least one entity can translate between compatible messages in a first extended extension portion of said protocol and a second extended extension portion of said protocol.

CLAIM 12 (currently amended):

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein an extended extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one extended extension portion of said protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

CLAIM 13 (currently amended):

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said assigned extended extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one parameter code not included in said standard protocol portion.

CLAIM 14 (currently amended):

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said extended extension portion of said protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard protocol portion.

CLAIM 15 (currently amended):

15. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said processor means are for further controlling the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different extended extension portion of said protocol between the communicating entities.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.